

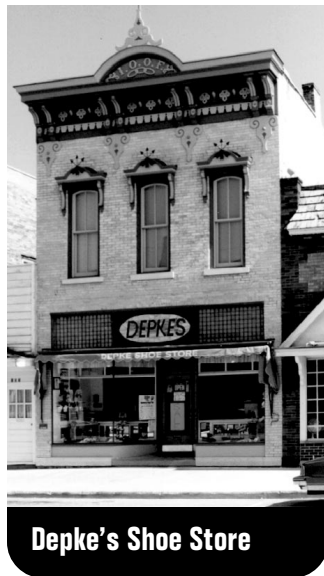
Depke's Shoe Store

Building Address

105 Pine Street

History of Project

This site was originally occupied by John L. Shepard, M.D. Dr. Shepard had his office and drug store in the original building, which burned down in 1879. In addition to being a M.D., Shepard was also an operative dentist



and dealer in medicine, chemicals, drugs, stationery, wines, liquors, cigars, paints, and wallpaper. Following the fire, the Fidelity Lodge of Odd Fellows rebuilt the building and used it as its meeting hall until 1890.

This two-story Victorian commercial building has been a shoe store since the Odd Fellows moved their meetings. However, the cornice still reveals the building's tie to the lodge. Otis Trowbridge took over the building after the Odd Fellows left, and opened the Louis Wolf Boot and Shoe Store. In May of 1897, John Roska bought out Trowbridge and partnered with his son Herbert to continue the business under J. Roska and Son. The Roskas remodeled the store and added a new front in 1916. Since that time, the building has housed shoe businesses. In 1976, Lee

and Melissa Geisthardt bought the building from William Depke, and later purchased the shoe business from their parents.

Scope of Project

Since 1916, the building's character has been altered. The three front windows on the upper level were replaced with a bay window, and the brick was painted peach. In addition, the cornice paint had peeled — exposing the wood to rot. The Geisthardts began restoration work in June 1996. The north side of the building was cleaned to remove deteriorated paint; a picture window was removed; the storefront's original three windows were restored. Extensive masonry work was completed to build back the three window openings. Reconstruction of the building's cornice and three window hoods, complete with decorative arrows, was also completed. In addition, decorative trim and the finial on the cornice top were reconstructed. The final touches included a coordinated paint scheme, an attractive roller awning, and a new interior window display area. Today, the building resembles the early 1900s storefront of J. Roska and son.

The Geisthardts received assistance for their project through participation in the Sheboygan Falls Main Street low-interest loan program and local façade and sign grant programs.

Contractor

Dick Mauer, RCM Carpentry, Sheboygan Falls

Total Cost

\$25,000

For more information, call the Wisconsin Main Street Program at (608) 266-7531.